



A month of clean up and advocacy!

The sun was shining and the water glistened on Earth Day as volunteers worked away at collecting trash and garbage from the shores of Belchers Marsh and along the trails. The recently returned osprey flew over and hovered, hoping to catch a fish or two, along with the great blue heron who calls this place home after a warmer winter in the south!

Unfortunately, we ran out of time and energy before we collected all the dog poop bags that didn't make it to a garbage pail, the cigarette butts trampled in to the ground and the household garbage that blows or is tossed in to our favourite parkland and green space. Volunteers from the Halifax North West Trails and Friends of Clayton Park participated. Mark your calendar for Earth Day next year, the park needs you! In the meantime, consider carrying a small bag when you walk the local trails and pick up any garbage and drop it in a garbage pail...many hands, light work!

We are excited to learn that Ducks Unlimited NS are considering this wetland as an urban outdoor classroom!

Perhaps the students will help us to better understand and respect our natural spaces as they study the water and natural species of plants, birds, and other species that put roots down.

Talk and discussion about Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park is now on 200 or more residents' minds after a recent community meeting. Plans are well underway to form a 'Friends' group which will enable communication with all levels of government, fund raising, and also enable and encourage safe access and stewardship in to the existing Wilderness Area and the future park. If you missed the meeting and want to participate, contact can be made at Bluemountainbirchcovelakes@gmail.com

Support for this park has been expressed by all three levels of government; including Environment Minister Iain Rankin whose riding includes the Wilderness Area. He spoke about the important role we can all play in keeping this area safe; the concern is a danger from fire and misuse of the park. A timeline and update is hosted at EAC <https://ecologyaction.ca/issue-areas/wilderness>

Keep an eye on the website for upcoming walks and hikes on our local existing and future trails. And mark International Trail Day, always the first Saturday in June. This year, we will celebrate with a hike in to Blue Mountain Hill on June 2, at 9:30. More details at www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca
Pre-registration is required. Please contact Sharon Gibson at sandfg6@gmail.com or 902-435-6959.